

RAGEDIES OF LIFE TRACED AT MORGUE

(Continued from First Page.)
morgue by the ingenious methods of Mr. Schoneberger.

Marks That Lead to Identity.
But the unraveling of these mysteries reminds one of a magician's trick, so simply is it done. Uncovering some slight distinguishing mark, tattoo, gold teeth, a maimed limb,

or some unusual facial feature, all have helped Mr. Schoneberger in clearing up the identity of many men reported "missing," whose bodies have been found, either as victims of an accident or meeting death by their own hand.

The body may be buried as unidentified and unclaimed, but a minute description and record of the victim is kept at the morgue. A letter, pathetic in tone, from an anxious relative or friend received at the bureau, inquiring for a "missing" man or woman received by Mr. Schoneberger, results in a search of his records.

The letter may casually mention

that the missing man "had an American eagle tattooed on his right arm and a gold front tooth."

The rest is simple for the morgue keeper. If he had ever had the body of the "missing" man, he will be able to refer to his records and in the twinkling of an eye tell the spot where it has been buried in Potter's Field, the final resting place for paupers and the unclaimed dead, forgotten in death as they were in life.

Many Missing Found in Morgue.
These records are tucked away in the archives in the chamber of the unclaimed dead at the morgue. Strange to say, distressed relatives and friends, shocked to learn of the death of their kin or acquaintances, are immensely gratified in the realization of finding the missing who can be given decent burial. Countrywide searches have been instituted for the "missing" only to end frequently in the finding of their bodies at the morgue. Gratitude, and even joy, fills the hearts of the relatives to find the much-sought bodies of those who long since had formed part of the great army of derelicts.

Fingerprints are not taken of every unclaimed body. But in some cases fingerprints have solved many a mystery for the police. Long-sought criminals, who have met death either by suicide or through accident or have died a natural death, have been identified at the morgue. If a man is arrested in Washington his photograph and fingerprints are taken and kept on record at Police Headquarters. Should such a man be found dead, his identification can be made through these records.

It is strange, but few persons carry cards of identification. If they did so, and were not anxious to hide their identity, it would be an easy matter for the police to find out who they are should they meet with accident or death.

Why One Man Wanted Death.
"Why do you want to die—why did you try to commit suicide?" Detective Guy Burlingame asked of a man who fired a bullet into his breast in an attempt to end his life.

"I'm an embezzler," he said. "I feared arrest. I lost all faith in mankind. I wanted to die, but try to live the doctors save my life. I want to live now."

This man stripped his clothing of every mark of identification before he shot himself. He wanted to die and be put away under six feet of soil, even in Potter's field, without giving a simple clue to his identity.

Today he is employed in one of the Government departments, holding a responsible job. He has made good and now faces the world with a new hope shining in his eyes.

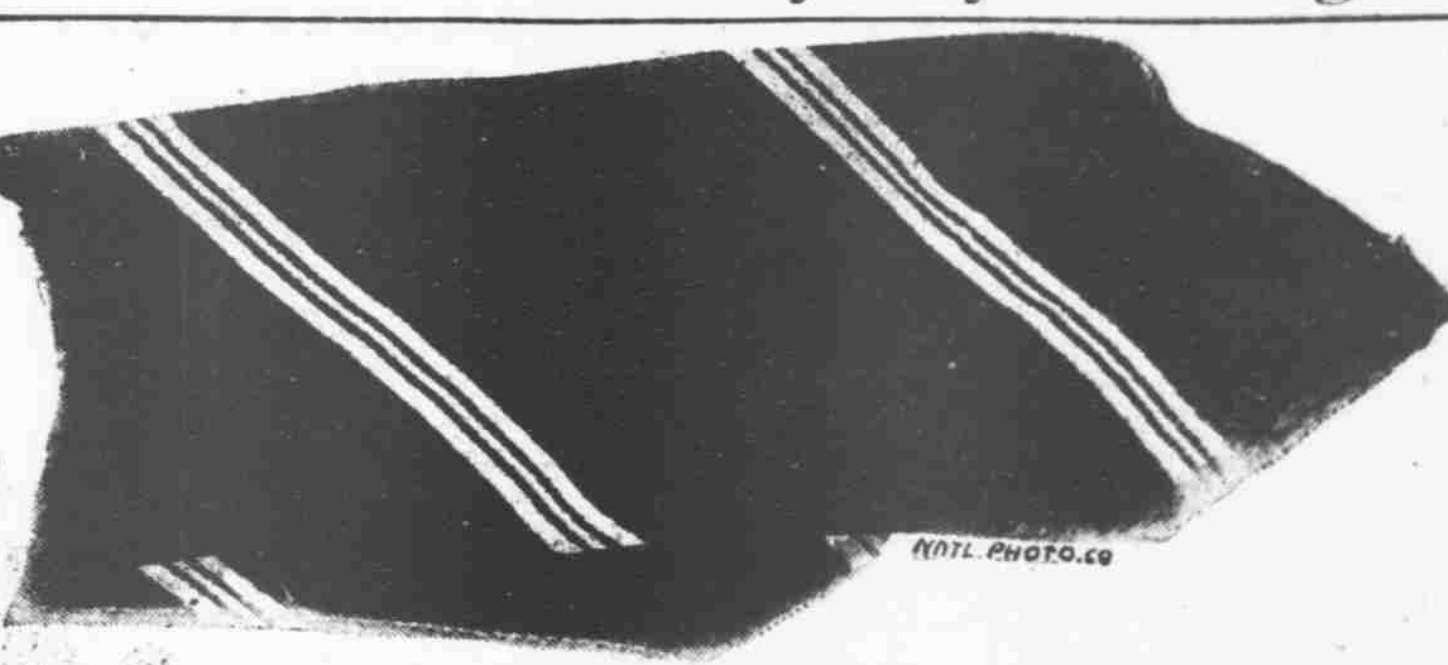
An instance of how the seemingly impossible has been accomplished in identifying the dead is the case of William Smith, a Government clerk, who fired a bullet into his brain in the Mall.

Mirror Furnished This Clue.
A mirror, used by the suicide in aiming the revolver at his right temple, disclosed his identity. The suicide had torn off every tailor mark, destroyed his collar, cut out laundry marks of his linen. Then he coolly sat under a tree and fired the shot.

Only the mirror and revolver were found beside the body. A minute examination was made by Mr. Schoneberger in an effort to get at some clue, without which identifying the suicide would have been out of the question. No one claimed the body, and it was buried.

Two months later a letter reached the bureau from New York. It stated that a fruitless search had been made throughout the country for Smith, and that as a last resort the District morgue was appealed to. The letter stated that Smith left his home apparently to get work in Washington. Fear was entertained that he had met death, either by accident or suicide. The letter casually mentioned that among his personal effects Smith carried a small hand mirror with a red back. No mention was made of the fact that Smith had a front gold tooth.

Tie That Ended Mystery at Morgue



This piece of a necktie proved the clue which resulted in Mrs. Alice Campbell, of 625 Third street southeast, claiming the body of her husband, William H. Campbell, whose body was found floating in the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. Campbell's body was buried in the potters' field among the unclaimed, and his wife four months later went to the District morgue, saw the tie, and asserted it was similar to the one which her husband wore when he disappeared and which she had given him as a Christmas gift.

Mr. Schoneberger wrote the inquiring relative in New York and asked if the missing man had a gold tooth. A reply came that he had, describing the position of the tooth.

"I believe we have a body buried in Washington," Mr. Schoneberger wrote.

Relatives Identify Mirror.
Several days later relatives of the suicide came to Washington and identified the mirror and pieces of clothing taken from the body, which was exhumed and taken to New York for reburial.

"I knew we had the missing man when they told me he carried a mirror," said Mr. Schoneberger, "but I wanted to be certain and inquired about the tooth. Then when the relatives came they identified the clothing. Of course, they were heartbroken over his death, but were relieved to find the body."

Tattoo Told Who Man Was.
Joseph Fitnam died of heart exhaustion in August, 1917. He was a laborer by trade and was picked up on the street, overcome and prostrated. He died without regaining consciousness. There was nothing in his pockets to indicate his identity. But Morguekeeper Schoneberger, before burying the man among the unclaimed, took note of the initials J. F. tattooed on the man's right arm.

Months later the body was exhumed. It was claimed by relatives, who had sought the man and finally inquired at the bureau, fearing that he had met with death.

An initial diamond ring established the identity of Alexander Warren, photographer, 301 Florida avenue, who was murdered a year ago. Warren was lured in an automobile to the suburbs of Washington and was killed with a blow on the head which crushed his skull. After killing the man, his murderers saturated the body with kerosene and set his clothing on fire. The body was taken to the morgue, burned and charred beyond recognition.

"More than 1,000 persons called at the morgue," said Mr. Schoneberger, "I think many of them called because of morbid curiosity. But the day we were to bury the body as unclaimed, Norman and Blanche Warren, brother and sister-in-law of the slain man, identified the body through the diamond ring. The ring proved the body had been worn by Warren through the jewelry from whom the slain man had purchased it."

Gold Teeth Gave Identity.
Three gold teeth played a prominent part in establishing the identity of Francis R. Randolph, a Government clerk, of Riverdale, Md. The body was found in the Potomac river at the foot of Thirty-third street. Randolph, who had been in poor health, left his office nearby for a walk. That was the last seen of him. When he disappeared, the police were asked to search for him. Several days later his body was found. Pieces of his clothes were kept by Morguekeeper Schoneberger, and the man was buried as unclaimed and unknown.

Randolph's wife later went to the morgue, was given a description of the drowned man and when told of the three gold teeth and shown parts of the man's clothing she wept as she declared she was sure the man was her husband. The body was exhumed and buried by the wife in the family cemetery.

Christmas Present This Time.
A necktie, given as a Christmas present to William H. Campbell, fifty-five years old, 625 Third street southeast, resulted in the claiming of his body four months after it had been found floating in the Chesapeake and Ohio canal.

There were no marks, papers or letters which would lead to the identification of the drowned man. The wife had reported his disappearance.

In fear of her husband's death, Mrs. Campbell consulted Mr. Schoneberger and gave a minute description of him. She particularly emphasized the color and kind of tie she had given him as a Christmas gift. Schoneberger looked up his records and when he showed the belongings of the drowned man to Mrs. Campbell, she exclaimed:

"That's my husband's tie. I gave it to him for Christmas." She then glanced at the other pieces of clothing worn by the drowned man.

"Yes," she declared, as tears welled up in her eyes. "These are bits of my husband's clothing, and the necktie is the one I gave him."

Mother Knew Doorkey.
William Peyton, a Washington youth, was riding on a freight train to Alexandria, Va., when he fell and was run over, his body being mangled beyond recognition. The body was brought to the District morgue and listed among the unknown and unclaimed.

Forty-five days later his mother called at the morgue in her anxiety to locate her missing son, fearing he had been killed.

An ordinary doorkey shown the mother by Mr. Schoneberger revealed his identity. After identifying the key, Mrs. Peyton recognized pieces of clothing which had been taken from the body.

was found in a lumber yard in Eighth street, between H and I streets northwest. He had apparently been dead a day before the body was discovered. He had removed all articles of identification, including tailor's labels, but he overlooked the telltale laundry marks. The marks were identified by a big steam laundry and the morgue-keeper was given the name of the man to whom these particular marks belonged.

Chinese Marks Fall As Clues.
At all the big laundries, patrons are given distinguishing marks. For instance, John Brown sends his laundry and the collars, shirts and other linen are given the mark "B24." The records in the office of the laundry show that the laundry marked "B24" belongs to John Brown. This laundry mark frequently unfolds the identity of the dead.

But with the Chinese laundry it is different. Laundry "done up" in the Chinese laundries is hard to have identified, due to the great number of laundries in the city and the different identification marks.

But, among the many unknown dead taken to the morgue and later buried is a soldier whose body was floating off of the Highway Bridge. Before casting himself into the river the soldier ripped the regulation buttons from his uniform to prevent, upon possible recovery of his body, his identification.

When the body was taken to the morgue, soldiers from the many near-

by camps viewed it, but none was able to identify the soldier. Nothing was found on his body except the regulation uniform and other wearing apparel.

Fire Victims Identified.
"Teeth proved to help us a great deal in the identification of the many who were burned to death in the fire some years ago at the Stump Manufacturing Company's plant, Seventh street and Massachusetts avenue," said Mr. Schoneberger. "There were six bodies, charred beyond recognition, brought to the morgue. All the clothing had been burned from the bodies, and relatives came to the morgue and made identifications by examinations of the teeth."

"I have been morguekeeper since 1892 and during that time I have seen bodies identified by many methods. Little trinkets, keys, fountain pens, scars, and many other things have resulted in the identifications. And many a family rested after weeks and years of anxiety over the disappearance of a dear one. While the news of death is shocking, there seems to be a lot of satisfaction to the relatives when they find the bodies have been buried and that they can reclaim and properly and decently bury them in family cemeteries."

"They have the satisfaction of knowing where the relatives are, and like the mother of a soldier who was killed in France, she is shocked to learn of his death, but happy in knowing that the whereabouts of the body is known and that it can be claimed."

AMERICA LOSES BY TREATY, SAYS FOE

BERLIN, May 18.—Great Britain is the greatest winner and America the greatest loser as the result of the peace terms, according to Herr Giesberts, delegate, who returned recently from Versailles. He declared the treaty similarly reduced Germany to the status of a slave colony.

Premier Lloyd George and Premier Clemenceau beat President Wilson by forcing a peace which killed Germany as a commercial competitor, thereby advancing British interests, Giesberts said. America will lose German markets because Wilson failed to compel adherence to his fourteen points, he said.

"Germany would become practically a slave colony under the terms as at present constituted," said Giesberts. "The Saar settlement simply

means that Germany must buy back her own people at the end of fifteen years. If the terms were reduced half there would be eternal peace, for Germany would then be able to work, repay her debts, and reconstitute herself."

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Let every man, woman and child take this lesson to heart.

Now that the strain of war is over, get out in the Great Outdoors. Indulge in the sports and games that bring bodily vigor, mental relaxation, sound health and greater efficiency.

Renew your youth playing baseball in the back lot. Whatever your favorite sport—golf, tennis, football, boxing, wrestling, swimming or tramping—play every chance you get. You'll get more joy out of life, earn more and live longer if you go in for some form of exercise! Begin to play, today!

Co-operation and helpful suggestions for the promotion of sports invited.

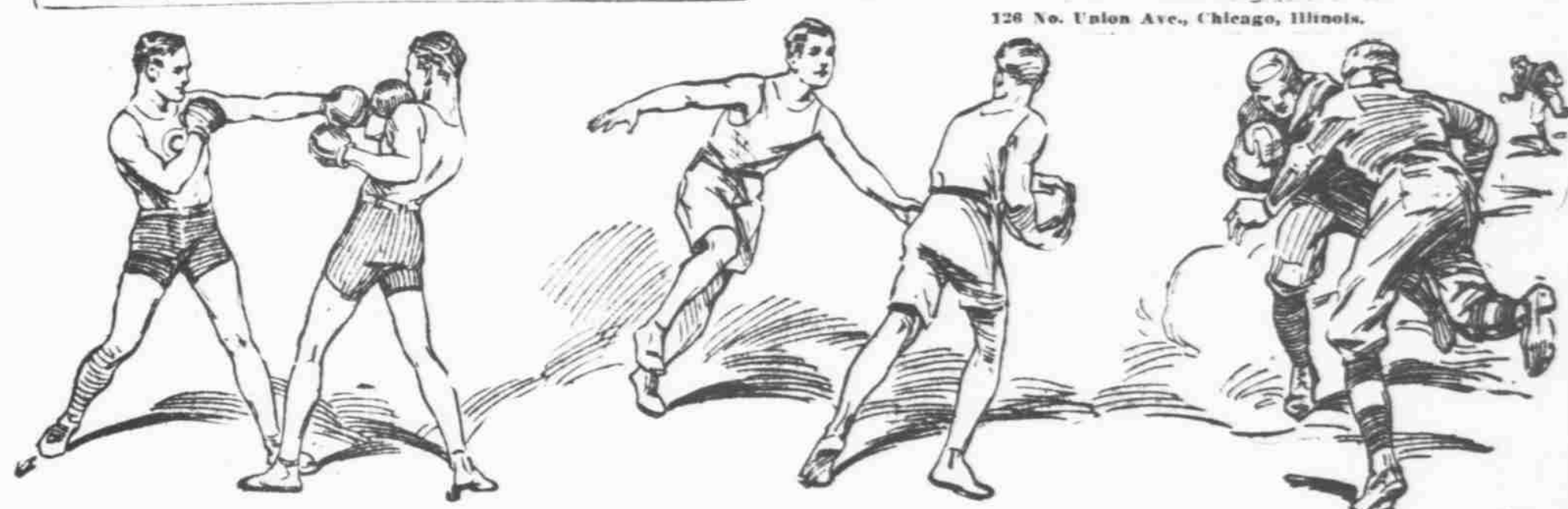
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126 No. Union Ave., Chicago, Illinois.



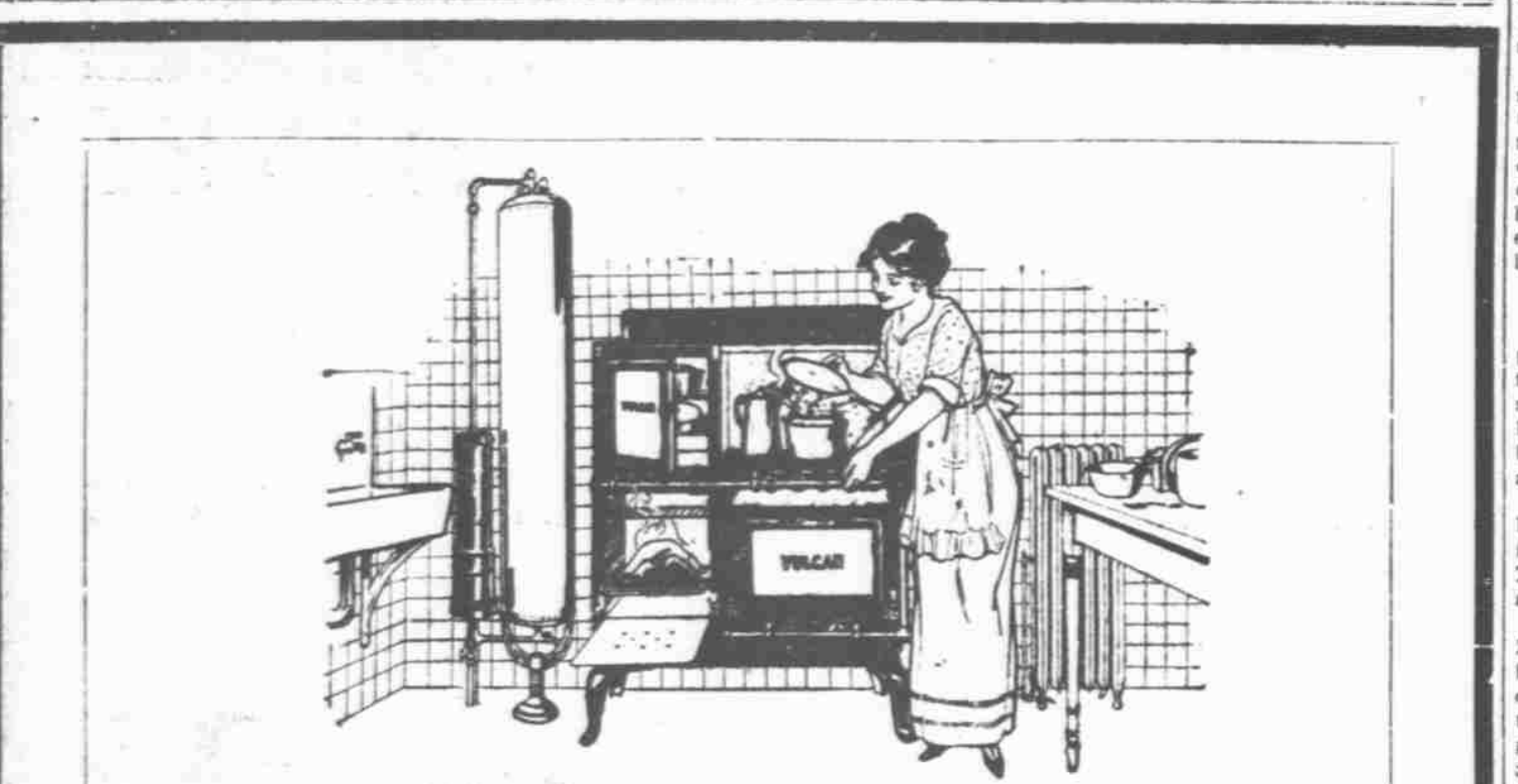
In the rush of last minute legislation and for lack of opportunity to investigate, the 65th Congress dealt a staggering blow to athletics by imposing a 10% tax on Sporting Goods.

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